

F-22 maintenance is nearly 'plug and play'

Staff Sgt. Jason Tudor
Air Force Print News

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.—Future maintainers of the F-22 Raptor will quickly realize what America's most technologically advanced fighter has in common with most of today's machines.

It's as close to plug and play as you can get.

That means Raptor crew chiefs will be able to plug a specialized laptop computer into a port on the aircraft's underbelly to diagnose a problem, malfunction or glitch in a wide array of areas from avionics to propulsion.

It is another Air Force first from the F-22 Combined Test Force here and for the maintenance team that fixes, tweaks and innovates each day, this plug-and-play capability is making more than one of its crew chiefs a little wary about the change.

"I'm not sure what to think of that just yet," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Manter, the crew chief for Raptor Number 4005. "A lot of us are used to walking around the jet and performing these tests on each of the separate systems. You just don't do that with the F-22."

In fact, there isn't much that is standard about F-22 maintenance technical orders, which, like the next-generation fighter, are still in the developmental phase. Such guidance is being toolled by civilian and military maintainers, who work each day to create an aircraft that will, one day, be the dominant fighter jet on the planet.

Accordingly, these maintainers are working side by side with the airframe engineers, the pilots and others who ply their trade in honing and shaping this aircraft.

For Staff Sgt. Michael Graves, an avionics specialist with the test force, the sensation of being part of the de-

velopment of a new weapons platform is like no other.

"We're learning something new every day," Sergeant Graves said. "You become a sponge. We do stuff each day that is just unbelievable."

Every component, black box and weld is made to help lower the number of maintenance people assigned to the Raptor, Sergeant Graves said. That translates to a smaller personnel footprint on the battlefield and a big win for Air Force planners.

About that specialized laptop ...

Known as the Portable Maintenance Aid, the laptop will be a key to ensuring the F-22's shelf life and keeping it flying. It will also eliminate much of the paperwork associated with maintaining a fleet of fighters, Sergeant Manter said. That means no more technical orders. Only compact discs.

The PMA plugs into an interconnected avionics, hydraulics, weapons

and propulsion system. In an instant, crew chiefs can check the oil, kick the tires, squeegee the windshield and ensure their Raptor is ready to fly. So far, it is working as advertised, Sergeant Manter said, and if it's not, he and his team make it happen.

"Everything is centrally located, and the PMA will see it," he said. "Even the smallest things are looked at. It's all connected. If something in the software changes, we collect the data, move it along to where it needs to go and, eventually, we get a new compact disc to use."

"It's a big switch," Sergeant Manter said about the loss of a thick, black binder with volumes of technical orders.

Innovations like this could also mean a higher mission-capable rate during peace and war. This prospect excites people like Col. Chris Seat, director of the CTF and an F-22 test pilot.

"I think the next generation of folks to work with the F-22 will be very comfortable with it right off the bat," he said. "It is going to open up such a tremendous new capability. It's going to be a whole new concept of operations."

The Raptor upkeep is also amazing others assigned to the project.

Staff Sgt. Rob Rjasko, a weapons loader in the CTF, recently watched successful testing of an AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile launch. He is also one of the first people to make sure the Joint Direct Attack Munition, a low-cost guidance kit which converts existing unguided free-fall bombs into accurately guided "smart" weapons, would fit into the F-22 weapon's bay properly.

Did it fit? "Oh yeah," Sergeant

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AETC announces outstanding Airmen of the Year—Tyndall senior NCO selected



Senior Master Sgt. George W. Mason

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) - Air Education and Training Command announced the AETC Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2000 during a ceremony at Lackland AFB, Texas, Wednesday.

Senior Master Sgt.

George W. Mason won the Senior NCO of the Year category, Master Sgt. Thomas J. Purtle was named First Sergeant of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Maria D. Cornelia was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Staff Sgt. Robert S. Pullin was presented the Airman of the Year award.

Sergeant Mason is superintendent of the 325th Contracting Squadron here at Tyndall Air Force Base, and was selected as the 19th Air Force Senior NCO of the Year for 2000. He was actively involved in AETC efforts to privatize utilities at eight bases in the command. Sergeant Mason managed an energy-savings contract that saved more than \$500,000 for Air Force installations in the southeast United States. He also streamlined requests for local purchase procedures by reducing the process by 30 days. Additionally, the senior NCO was active in Tyndall's youth center sports programs, served as Florida's Major Little League Baseball commissioner and volunteered to work with the base chapel's Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives for less fortunate families.

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Lisa Carroll

A memorable swearing-in ceremony

The Gulf Coast Salute provides a perfect stage for 27 new enlistees and nine re-enlistees to be sworn in. Lt. Col. John R. Venable, Thunderbirds commander, administers the oath while five of the Thunderbird team members stand with the enlistees.

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Rjasko said. “No problem.”

In Sergeant Rjasko’s world, the F-22 is also changing the way business is being done. Hydraulics and nitrogen, not explosives, release the weapons from their airborne mounts. The weapons bay is also sealed when not employing a weapon, thus lowering drag and helping the jet look like a hummingbird on a radar screen.

When fully loaded, the F-22 can carry two AIM-9 Sidewinders, six AIM-120Cs and its 20mm Gatling gun; or two Sidewinders, the 20MM gun, two AIM-120s and two 1,000-pound JDAMs.

Needless to say, Sergeant Rjasko has been working double-time to keep up, and knows when the fighter is called to service, it will have no equal. “I’ve been able to make and implement my suggestions into the F-22 development process. How many people will be able to say that?” he asked. “It’s amazing. It’s going to

●From AIRMAN Page 1

Sergeant Purtle is the first sergeant for the 384th Training Squadron at Sheppard AFB, Texas, and was selected as the 82nd Training Wing First Sergeant of the Year.

Sergeant Cornelia is assigned to the 320th Training Squadron at Lackland AFB, Texas, as a section supervisor and won the Commander’s Excellence Award for 2000 for her squadron. She led her military training instructors to 12 “Outstanding” ratings in periodic standardization/evaluation evaluations, and 15 of her basic military training flights earned the title of “Honor Flight.”

Sergeant Pullin is assigned to the 17th Security Forces Squadron at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, as a military working dog handler and was named the AETC Outstanding Security Forces Airman for 2000. He also represented the command in the 2000 Department of Defense K-9 trials and was selected as the best dog handler in the DOD.

Former Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Sam E. Parish was the guest speaker at the banquet, which highlighted a four-day visit to Randolph and Lackland Air Force bases for the nominees and their spouses.

AETC honored all nominees and their spouses by bringing them to San Antonio, Texas, and giving them first-hand information about the command’s mission, airman assignments and promotions. The nominees also visited basic military training instructors and trainees, and they spent time touring San Antonio and experiencing the unique culture in the city as well.

These AETC winners will compete at the Air Force-level competition in their respective categories.

be one deadly jet.”

While the innovation and testing continues at a breakneck pace until the first phase of testing ends in December 2002, Sergeant Manter and his colleagues are still in awe of the jet’s capabilities and what it will be able to accomplish once deployed.

“Most people won’t believe what this aircraft will do,” he said.

F-22 test pilot Lt. Col. Gary Plumb agreed. “It is flexible and fast,” he said. “It’s a very exciting time to be part of this program.”

Sergeant Graves talked about the wider ramifications of what his team is doing. “We’re working hand in hand with some brilliant people,” he said. “Eventually, we’re going to be the ones who are expected to train the rest of the Air Force on how to fix this jet. It’s a big responsibility.

“Everything they said it can do, it does,” Sergeant Graves said. “To look at a jet this big, this agile, and be told that no one will be able to see it or catch it is amazing.”



Thrift Savings Plan opens to military Oct. 9

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Servicemembers can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, Defense Department officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include servicemembers.

“It’s in addition to your regular retirement,” said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DOD’s Office of Military Compensation. “It’s an optional program.”

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions will start in January 2002. In 2002, servicemembers can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay. That limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, servicemembers will

be able to contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay or bonus pay they receive.

“You can contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan,” Colonel Emswiler said. The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone will not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions will be subject to a different limitation, however, 25 percent of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, servicemembers will choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds civilians choose from. The funds run the gamut from safe — the G Fund invests in special government bonds — to riskier investments — the C Fund, which is tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund that invests in commercial bonds.

The TSP will unveil two funds in May. S Fund investments go

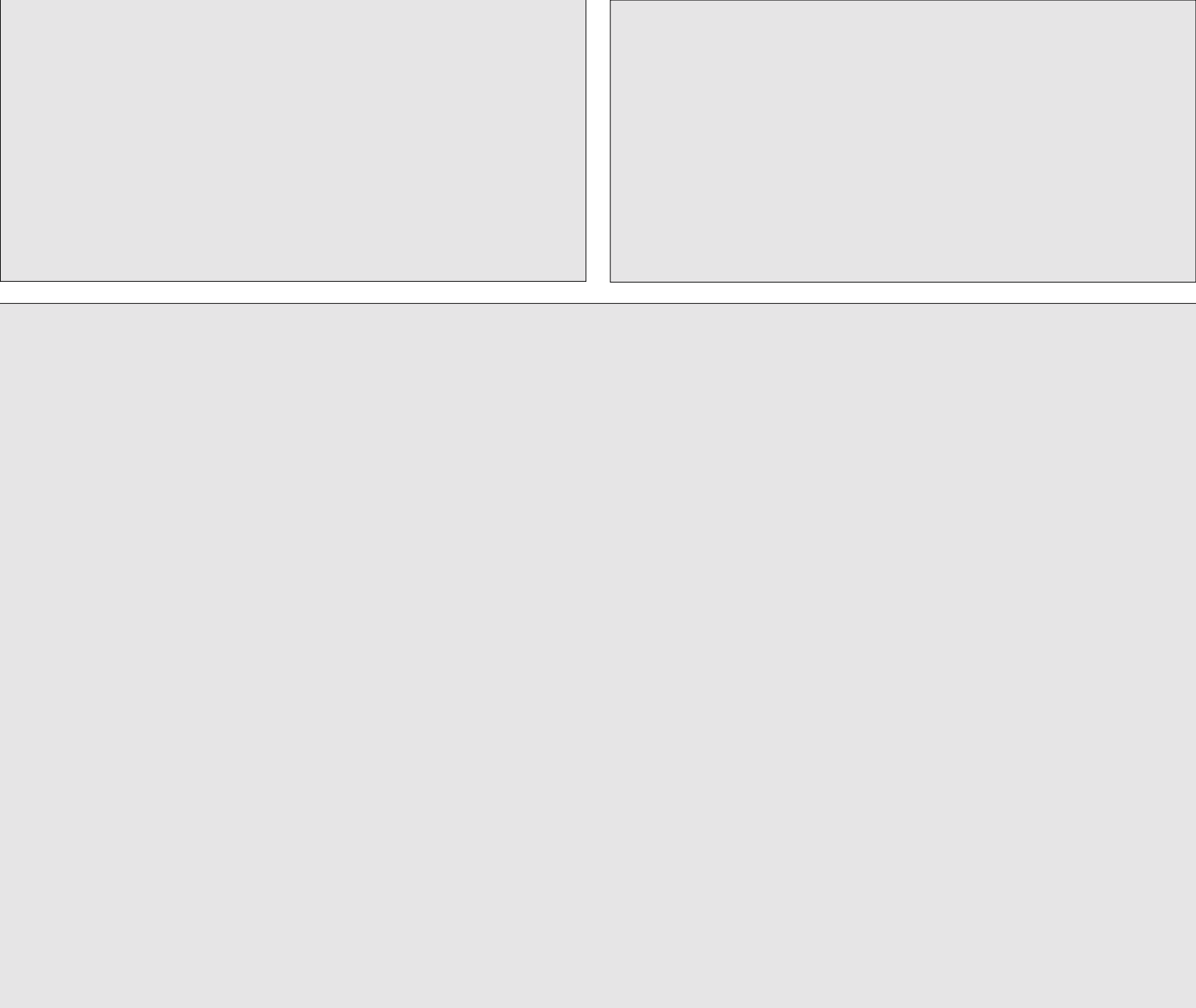
to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

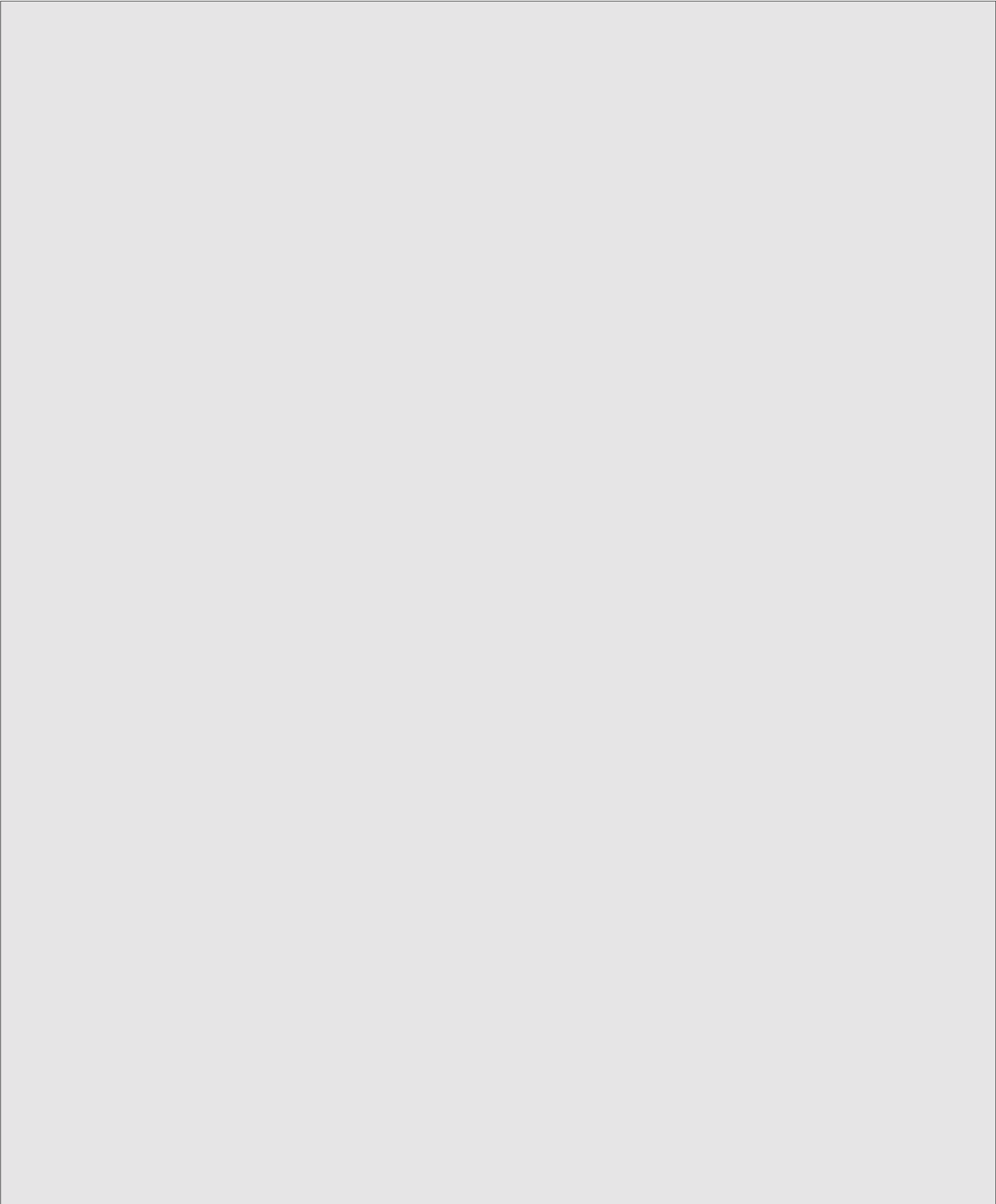
Servicemembers will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year, in November to January and May to July.

“Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a re-enlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time,” Colonel Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from “pre-tax” dollars. Servicemembers will pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they’re withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting all of the bases to explain the program. Until then, those who wish to can see the thrift plan’s uniformed services web page at www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html for more information.





Today in history

- 1858

Hyman L. Lipman of Philadelphia patents the pencil with an eraser attached on one end.
- 1867

Russian Baron Stoeckl and U.S. Secretary of State Seward completed the draft of a treaty ceding Alaska to the United States. The treaty is signed the following day.
- 1870

The 15th Amendment, guaranteeing the right to vote regardless of race, passes.
- 1885

Texas is the last Confederate state readmitted to the Union.
- 1909

The Queensboro Bridge in New York opens. It is the first double-decker bridge and links Manhattan and Queens.
- 1936

Britain announces a Naval construction program of 38 warships. This is the largest construction program in 15 years.
- 1943

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s first collaboration, Oklahoma, opens on Broadway.
- 1944

The U.S. fleet attacks Palau, near the Philippines.
- 1945

The Red Army advances into Austria.
- 1950

President Harry S. Truman denounces Senator Joe McCarthy as a saboteur of U.S. foreign policy.
- 1972

Hanoi launches its heaviest attack in four years, crossing the DMZ.
- 1975

As the North Vietnamese forces move toward Saigon, desperate South Vietnamese soldiers mob rescue jets.
- 1981

President Ronald Reagan is shot and wounded in Washington, D.C., by John W. Hinkley Jr.
- 1987

Vincent Van Gogh’s painting *Sunflowers* is bought for \$39.85 million.

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance to increase

The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 increased the maximum amount of coverage available under Servicemembers Group Life Insurance from \$200,000 to \$250,000. This increase will take effect on April 1 and is automatic for all active-duty and reserve members. Regardless of the amount of coverage you currently have, everyone will automatically be increased to the full \$250,000 amount.

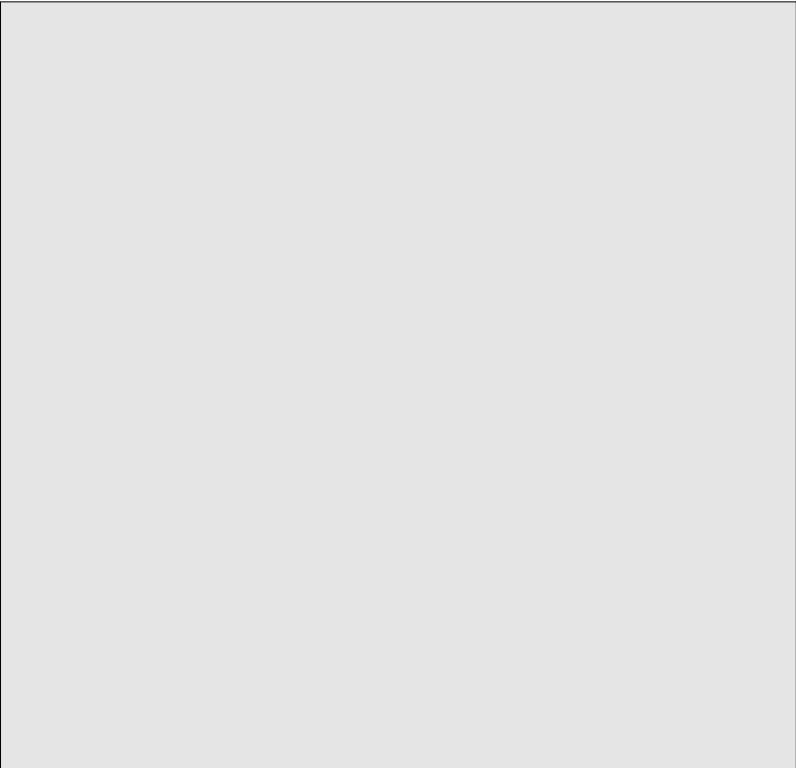
If you previously declined or elected lower coverage and you want the lower coverage (or no coverage) to continue, it is

mandatory that you contact your Commander’s Support Staff or Military Personnel Flight customer service no earlier than April 1, but prior to April 30 to complete the new form. If you don’t make your new election during the month of April you will not receive a refund for the higher premium paid for the month of April. Members who make elections to reduce or decline coverage after April 30 will be charged the full premium for maximum coverage (\$20 monthly premium) for April, as well as for any other month in which the coverage remains in effect.

NCO Supplemental Promotion Board scheduled

The senior NCO Supplemental Promotion Board is scheduled for April 30 - May 4. The suspense date for Air Force Personnel Center to receive requests to be considered by the supplemental promotion board is April 6. The AFPC will objectively review fully justified late submissions on a case-by-case basis. Keep in mind that the AFPC will

conduct another senior NCO supplemental board from July 30 – Aug. 3. Please review AFI 36-2502, table 2.5, reasons for senior NCO Supplemental Promotion Board consideration and contact the career enhancements section at the Military Personnel Flight. For more information, contact Senior Airman Angela Cook, 283-3198.



Commissary to eliminate Social Security Numbers on checks

Kevin Hennelly
Defense Commissary Agency public affairs

FORT LEE, Va. (AFPN)— Starting in May, the Defense Commissary Agency will no longer require customers to put their Social Security Numbers on checks when paying for their groceries.

It is another example of how the commissary is listening to customers and giving them what they want.

“Our customers are telling us they are increasingly concerned about disclosing personal information on their checks that may result in ‘identity theft,’ violations of personal privacy, fraud or personal financial loss,” said Colonel Ed Jones, DeCA’s comptroller. “We are listening to our patrons and are taking the steps needed to reduce their exposure to these risks.”

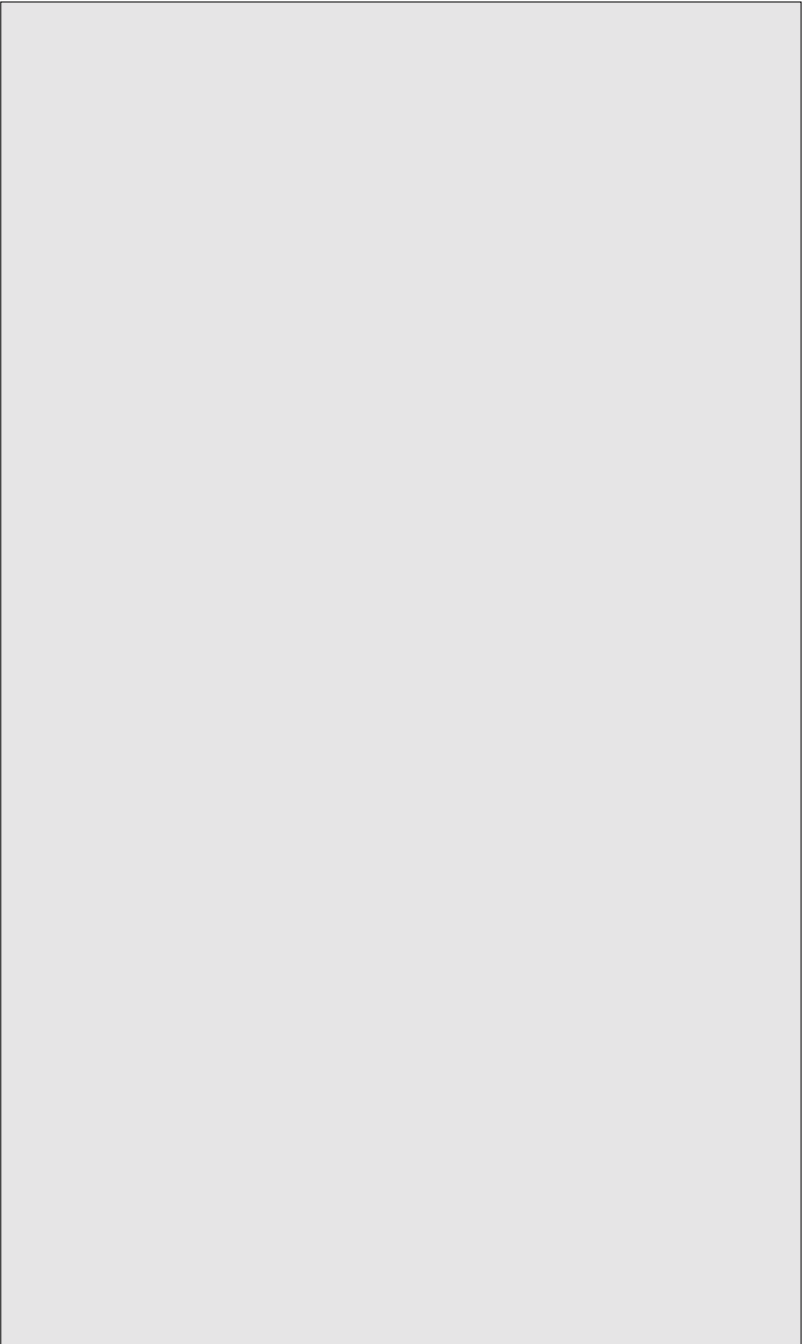
As national anxiety over identity theft mounted and various civilian retailers stopped asking for SSNs, military shoppers began asking DeCA to change too. As a result,

customers will have extra security and the convenience of not having to write their SSN on a check when shopping at the commissary.

By this May, commissary patrons will no longer be required to show a SSN on the front of their personal checks. It also means that the agency is modifying its cash register system to stop printing SSNs on the back of checks. Customers still will be required to provide their SSN, but not on the checks themselves.

DeCA has succeeded in developing a closed system to safely retain the SSN to comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines for collecting bad check information. The cashier will enter this information into the system when the customer’s identification is checked at the register.

“The results of this re-engineered business process will ensure transaction confidentiality and appropriate audit trails are maintained with the assurance that individual identity is protected,” said John Goodman, DeCA’s program manager for the cash register system.



Viewpoint

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office at Tyndall. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129, or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Safety stats

Category	'00	'01	Trend
On duty	1	0	-1
Off duty	10	1	-9
Traffic	5	0	-5
Sports	4	1	-3
Fatalities	1	0	-1

Commander's Corner



Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins
325th Fighter Wing
commander

I want to congratulate and thank you all for a job well done this weekend. Gulf Coast Salute 2001 was an enormous success, with more than 70,000 coming out to visit and enjoy the festivities with us. As always, Team Tyndall did an excellent job from planning to set up and the actual performances. I know everyone was impressed with all the spectacular demonstrations and entertainment we provided. The air show and open house just keeps getting better every year!

Events like the Gulf Coast Salute ensure that our relationship with the local community remains one of the best in the Air Force. Displaying the capabilities and talents of Team Tyndall and the Air Force enlightens the public on what we are all about. There are so many people who worked hard to make the event special—too many to mention here. But with any big undertaking, someone's got to be in charge, and I'd like to thank **Major Dave "Redneck" Green** for stepping up to the plate.

The 325th Security Forces Squadron, in conjunction with local law enforcement departments will sponsor a Torch Run Wednesday. This run spans 2.1 miles starting from the foot of the DuPont Bridge and ends at Oppie's family restaurant on Ivy Road. The run is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics. Thanks to all who are supporting this event.

AETC customer service initiative boosts quality of life

Gen. Hal Hornburg
Air Education and Training
Command
commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)—If I get poor service in a restaurant or store, I don't feel valued as a customer. So I don't go back. And I doubt you would, either.

But on an Air Force base, we don't always have that luxury. If



We all need to thank all of our local law enforcement officers for doing such a great job every day, protecting the peace of the community. They work very hard to make sure Bay County and Tyndall are safe places to live.

April is the Month of the Military Child. This is a time we need to recognize how important our children are. The looks they give us when we come home from work should remind us that we are in the business to protect. The children are our future leaders. We need to provide them with a nurturing environment. We need to be good role models. The children look up to us to guide them. Use this month to spend some quality time with your children.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that Sunday is daylight-savings time. The time will spring forward, so be prepared to set all of your clocks one hour ahead. I'm not taking any excuses of anyone coming to work an hour late, so be ready and have a great Air Force Week!

you've ever visited a base customer service section only to find it closed for lunch — or if you've been tangled in an endless loop of recorded voice mail messages — you probably don't feel valued as a customer as well.

Customer service — both good and bad — affects our quality of life.

The phrase "quality of life" can mean different things to each of us. While many of us might view higher pay and better facilities as

Action Line



Steve Wallace

\$10,000 makes it all worthwhile

Col. William Bledsoe, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander, presents a \$10,000 Innovative Development through Employee Awareness award to Master Sgt. Mark E. Lemond, 325th Fighter Wing Maintenance Operations Center NCOIC, March 20. Sergeant Lemond designed a console cover which prevents component failure caused by rainwater entering the F-15 cockpit. Sergeant Lemond's cover will save an estimated \$81,181 per year in maintenance costs, including parts and labor. Sergeant Lemond had a prototype cover built from his design and the 325th Fighter Wing later purchased the console covers for all F-15 aircraft assigned to Tyndall.

The IDEA Program allows all military and civilian personnel, reserve members and contractors to submit ideas on improving the way the Air Force operates. The goal is to save dollars, man-hours and energy, as well as reduce aircraft downtime, improve safety, morale and quality of life. For more information, contact Barbara Adams at 283-8199 or e-mail barbara.adams@tyndall.af.mil.

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or

facility managers. If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For **fraud, waste and abuse** calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning **energy abuse** should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins
325th Fighter Wing
commander

the most common quality-of-life factors, the concept is much broader and really impacts our daily work environment. "Quality of life" begins with who you are, where you work and how you feel about what you do.

It is a sense of identity and belonging. And that's the foundation from which we must build a strong Air Force.

Our day-to-day interactions with people have significant impact on

our quality of life. Top-notch customer service in all aspects of our work and home life is crucial to maintaining high quality-of-life standards throughout AETC.

We produce highly trained and motivated airmen for the world's most capable aerospace force. All of our people deserve unparalleled customer service and support so we can focus our efforts on replenishing the com-

Spotlight



Airman 1st Class Russell Crowe

Staff Sgt. Christie R. Watson

Job Title: Air Surveillance Technician
Why did you join the Air Force: To make my father proud.
Years in Air Force: 7 years
Hometown: LaPlata, Md.
Years at Tyndall: 7 years
Most exciting facet of your job: Ensuring that the radar sites and aerostats in the Southeast sector’s area of responsibility are performing at the ideal level for optimum track detection.
Short-term goals: I’d like to complete my 4th qualification, start taking college classes in the fall and do more volunteer work in the community.
Long-term goals: To be happy with wherever I am in life.
Favorite book: Any book I read to my daughter before bed.
Favorite movie: “Urban Cowboy”
Hobbies and activities: Eating, shopping and spending time with my family.



●**From LIFE Page 5**
bat capability of Air Force units around the globe.

With that in mind, we’ve recently begun a command initiative called “Service-Way” that I believe will strengthen the quality of life for all of our people. I want every office to examine the support they provide their customers. More than just items on a checklist, customer-oriented service should be ingrained in what we do.

We need to examine closely our responsiveness, timeliness and empathy in dealing with the day-to-day issues of military life. Whether you process claims for permanent change of station moves, make appointments at the dental clinic or answer questions about pay and allowances at the accounting and finance office, you affect the quality of life and morale for many people.

If your customers include students or trainees, are you open for business and available during the times most convenient to them?

If your shop periodically closes for “training days,” are those days scheduled to minimally impact your customers? Better yet, could your office keep a skeleton crew

on board for customers while the others are trained?

If your unit has voice mail, how user friendly is it? The first and easiest option should always be to speak with a person.

Is there more than one “expert” in your office to help customers? What happens when that person goes to lunch, is on leave or on a temporary duty assignment?

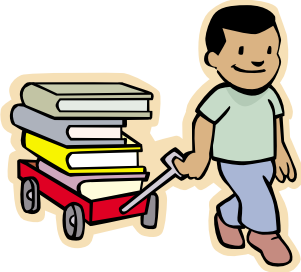
Are your form letters personalized for your customers, or are they the faceless, fill-in-the-blank kind? With our computers today we can take the extra few minutes to tailor your correspondence to show our people you’re concerned about their situations or problems.

These are just a few of the many areas we will look at under the Service-Way concept. The Air Force is a retention service, and quality customer service will ultimately help us retain our number one asset – our people.

As members of the First Command, we are the first to touch the lives of virtually every Air Force member. The initial impressions we make will last a long time. Let’s show all of our airmen and their families that we truly care about them by improving the very basic part of their quality of life.

Quick, easy energy tips

- Office equipment can account for 10-20 percent of a building’s energy consumption. If a piece of equipment is not in use, turn it off.
- Use ventilating fans wisely. In just one hour, these fans can blow away a house full of warm or cool air.
- Replace bulbs throughout the house with bulbs of the next lower wattage.
- Keep appliances and equipment away from air-conditioner thermostats. Heat from the equipment causes the air conditioner to run longer.



Take time
with your
kids
Read to them
learn together

A wealth of knowledge
can be found inside the
cover of a book. Take
time to read, listen and
learn with your children
now — they’ll thank you
for it in the future.

Tyndall’s chapel schedule

Protestant	Reconciliation: 4 p.m.
Communion Service: 9:30 a.m. Chapel 1	Saturday
General Protestant Service: 11 a.m. Chapel 2	Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, Chapel 2
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.	Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Chapel 2
Kids’ Club: 2:45-5:45 p.m.	Religious education: 10:50 a.m. Sunday
Wednesday	Chapel 2: 283-2925
Catholic	Other faith groups: Call 283-2925
Daily Mass: noon Monday through Friday, Chapel 2	



TRICARE is here to help. If you need assistance, call your TRICARE service center, (800) 444-5445.

TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries

As of April 1, 2001, Military Health System Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, age 65 and over, will be eligible for TRICARE prescription drug benefits.

This expanded pharmacy benefit applies to prescription drugs obtained from military treatment facility pharmacies, the National Mail Order Pharmacy program and retail pharmacies. This is a comprehensive drug benefit that makes pharmacy care accessible and affordable for more than one million military beneficiaries age 65 and over. In the past, only those beneficiaries who were eligible for Base Realignment and Closure benefits and the Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Program were able to take advantage of the prescription cost-savings that are available through the NMOP and retail pharmacy network. The BRAC pharmacy benefit and the Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Program are replaced by the new program.

Beneficiaries who are 65 years of age and older will not pay enrollment fees or annual premiums for their TRICARE pharmacy benefits, but they will pay modest co-pays when they use NMOP and retail network pharmacies. In addition, beneficiaries will also be able to use non-network pharmacies, but this option will entail a higher co-pay, plus a deductible.

Eligible beneficiaries who turn 65 after April 1, 2001, must sign up for Medicare Part B in order to take advantage of the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy program. However, military beneficiaries who turned 65 before that date can participate in the benefit whether they have Medicare Part B or not.

According to TRICARE officials, eligible beneficiaries should do two things now to ensure their future

eligibility for TRICARE benefits. First, they should update their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) record with their correct address and any changes in family status, such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption.

Retirees may update DEERS by:

- Going to the nearest military personnel office
- E-mailing changes to addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil
- Mailing changes to the DEERS Support Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771
- Or calling the toll-free number for the DEERS Support Office, 800-538-9552

Second, eligible beneficiaries who turn 65 after April 1, 2001 must enroll in Medicare Part B if they haven’t already. If they are not sure if they are enrolled, they can check the back of their Medicare card for this information. To enroll, beneficiaries must submit an application for Medicare Part B directly to the Social Security Administration. The General Enrollment Period for enrollment in Medicare Part B is held Jan. 1 through March 31 of each year, and Part B coverage starts on July 1 of that year. For details on enrollment in Part B, beneficiaries may call the Social Security Administration’s toll-free number, 800-772-1213, or visit any Social Security office. They also can find information on the Medicare web site, <http://medicare.gov>.



Features

Open House and Air Show 2001

Gulf Coast Salute

2nd Lt. Brian Cortez
325th Fighter Wing
public affairs

Almost 70,000 people came down to Tyndall's flightline for the Gulf Coast Salute 2001 this weekend. Food, entertainment, flight demonstrations and static displays were available-essentially something for everyone.

"We estimated the crowd count to be around 70,000," said Maj. David Green, Gulf Coast Salute 2001 coordinator. "Surprisingly, this year's crowd was twice the size of last year's! Our air show just keeps getting bigger and better every year."

With 12 flying demonstrations and four ground demonstrations, there was non-stop action from the time the gates opened at 9 a.m. until the show was over at 5 p.m. each day. "My friends and I were really excited to see all the demonstrations, the Shockwave truck and the Security Forces attack dogs," said Katherine Hitz, a Port St. Joe resident. Ed Kelley, retired Air Force sergeant, stated, "I love taking my family out here every year and we enjoy the whole show."

In addition to the flying and ground acts, there were 46 static displays that people could get close to and some of them they could go inside. "We had more displays than

usual. I think people really appreciated being able to touch and put their Mark I eyeballs on the aircraft that defend America and the rest of the world," Major Green said.

The static displays were a mix of heritage aircraft that have flown in the United States military, foreign military, civilian aircraft previously flown in the military and aircraft currently being used by the military services. "I'm glad I could be out here showing off the C-5 to all of these wonderful people and I really enjoyed seeing the Thunderbirds fly," said 1st Lt. Matt Stover, C-5 pilot.

A jump by the U.S. Army's Golden Knights awed the crowds on Saturday and Sunday. "We train very hard all year at Fort Bragg. I always look forward to jumping for all the people at the show. It's an exciting job and I can't wait to jump again," said Corporal Angela Nichols, Army Golden Knight.

Another major attraction was the Super Shockwave jet truck. A real crowd-pleaser, with three jet engines strapped to its back, it rocketed down Tyndall's runway at more than 320 miles per hour. The Super Shockwave also raced two aircraft down the runway, an F4-U Corsair and the Eagle Duster biplane, and won both races.

With so much to see and do, there was something

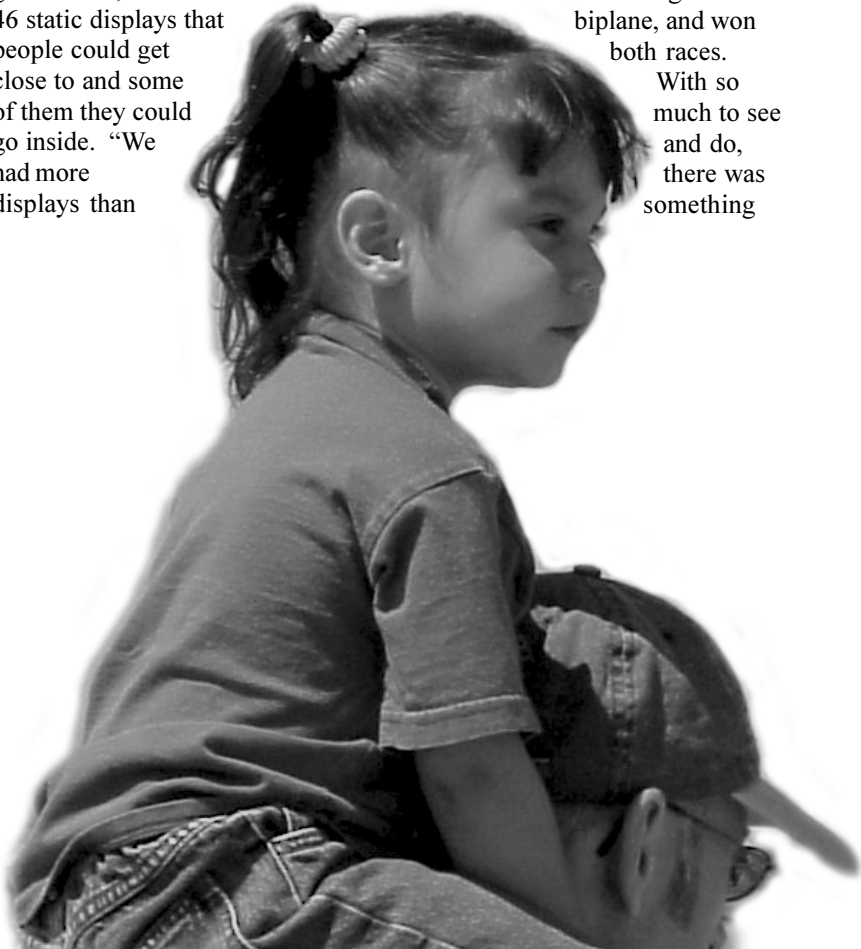
for everyone. There were F-16 flight simulators, the Jacksonville Jaguars football players and cheerleaders and a "Kiddie" hangar for the children.

There were also 25 refreshment booths, manned by 298 base volunteers, to keep people attending the air show from getting hungry and thirsty. "The volunteers and people who worked the air show, from the details crew to the air show committee, were the keys that guaranteed the success of the event," Major Green said.

"I would like to thank everyone who came out to see the show. We appreciate their interest and support for Tyndall and the USAF. We hope they enjoyed their visit and look forward to seeing them all at our next air show," Major Green said.



2nd Lt. Brian Cortez



2nd Lt. Brian Cortez





2nd Lt. Brian Cortez



Lisa Carroll



Lisa Carroll



Lisa Carroll



2nd Lt. Brian Cortez



2nd Lt. Emersonn Cabatu



Lisa Carroll



Lisa Carroll



Lisa Carroll



2nd Lt. Brian Cortez

Top left: A lone Thunderbird streaks through the sky.
Top center left: An Army Golden Knight jumps out of the C-31 FOKKER and shows off his parachuting skills on Sunday.
Top center right: The Golden Knights' C-31 performs a fly-by while the Golden Knights team stands attentively in formation.
Top right: The Thunderbirds perform their patented Delta formation.
Center left: The P-51 Mustang, F-86 and F-15 fly in harmony to represent the history of the Air Force.
Center: Another Golden Knights parachuter uses his skills to impress the air show crowd.
Left: A little boy sits on the lap of Mr. Bones, the 95th Fighter Squadron mascot.
Above: A Mig 17-2 flies with grace and speed at the air show.
Center right: An A-10 Warthog displays its awesome capabilities Saturday.
Bottom left: A little girl looks on in wonder at all the exciting activities at the air show.
Bottom center: The Super Shockwave jet truck speeds down the Tyndall runway.
Bottom right: Visitors watch the Thunderbirds Sunday afternoon.

CCAF increases affiliated schools

Lynis Cox
*Air University
public affairs*

MAXWELLAIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AETCNS)— On the eve of its 29th birthday, the world’s largest community college is forging ahead with new policy and technological advances to better develop the academic potential of Air Force enlisted personnel.

“We are definitely not 29 and holding,” said Dr. Elane Seebo, Dean of Academic Affairs. “The Community College of the Air Force is committed to growth, to meeting the educational needs of the enlisted force.”

Policy Council members recently voted to recommend an increase in the number of affiliated member schools from 122 to 135. Increasing the number of affiliated schools means students can receive credit for more courses applicable to CCAF degrees.

Recently, the CCAF brought base education offices online with a system that allows career advisers timely access to servicemembers’ educational records. The system has reported more than 50,000 hits since it became fully operational Jan. 31. Future plans include expanding the system so students can use the Internet to check their progress toward earning a degree.

Col. Jim McBride, CCAF commander and president, said the college plays a vital role in fulfilling the Air Force’s education commitment to its people. “We have awarded more than 209,000 associate degrees since we opened in 1972, and we are looking at ways every day to give enlisted personnel more opportunities to achieve degrees early in their careers. Education builds a strong foundation for the future of our

Air Force’s aerospace mission.”

The rapid change in communications and warfighting technology has accelerated demand for critical thinking, teamwork and commitment on the part of Air Force personnel, added the colonel. The CCAF provides airmen with the means to meet these demands and achieve their personal goals.

The college’s accomplishments in job-related education give airmen an opportunity they might not otherwise have because of the demands of military life. The degrees are directly related to Air Force Specialty Codes and are designed to sharpen the technical, leadership and management capabilities of the enlisted corps.

The CCAF is exploring the possibility of offering enlisted Air Force members the opportunity to earn additional academic degrees or professional credentials, such as certificates or licenses in specific fields. Most recently, the Federal Aviation Administration granted CCAF authority to verify eligibility requirements and issue certificates for Air Force members to take the airframe and power plant exam.

The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association accredits the college’s physical therapist degree program. Graduates of this CCAF program are automatically authorized to take the Physical Therapy Assistant State License examination.

The CCAF system is composed of the academic administrative center, the affiliated schools, almost 6,000 instructors and nearly 300 education advisement locations around the globe. More than 373,000 enlisted members are currently registered with the college.

Ease moving burden with helpful hints

*Courtesy of the Traffic
Management Office*

The summer moving rush is fast approaching. From May to September, 60 percent of all the moves for the entire year will take place. This is true for commercial industry as well as for the military. The increased number of moves that take place in the summer can adversely impact the Traffic Management Office’s ability to have household goods packed and picked up on the exact dates preferred by our customers. Below are some helpful hints to help minimize the impact:

- DO:**
- Be flexible with desired pickup dates. You will need to have alternate dates in case your primary dates are not available. We anticipate local capability will be significantly stressed.
 - 72 hours after you complete your shipment application, confirm your actual pickup date by calling our automated voice response system at



- 283-3518 or call our booking desk at 283-8179.
- Please provide as much advance notice as possible. You must be in possession of orders or have a letter-in-lieu from the Military Personnel Flight stating orders are forthcoming. The letter must include a permanent change of station fund cite.
 - Please be patient – Our desire is to work hard to meet your requirements.
 - DON’T:**
 - Don’t confirm any dates that will cost you money to change until you have a confirmed pack-out date(e.g., nonchange-able travel plans, telephone/cable disconnect, home closings or lease signings).
 - Don’t assume we will be able to meet your requested move dates.
 - Don’t make changes to your confirmed pickup dates. It will be very difficult to honor short notice changes.
 - We will do our very best to make your moving experience as smooth as possible.



Army and Air Force Exchange Service shuttle program benefits Tyndall customers

Did you know that your AAFES at Tyndall offers a shuttle program? The AAFES shuttle program offers patrons an opportunity to have merchandise not available at Tyndall's AAFES, to be transferred from Eglin's AAFES to Tyndall. This service saves Tyndall shoppers from having to drive some one hundred-sixty miles round trip from Tyndall to Eglin to shop for items not locally available.

How does the shuttle program work? It's easy.....simply come by or phone a Tyndall BX Customer

Service associate at 286-6949 and have them prepare a customer convenience request for the item(s) you want transferred from Eglin to Tyndall. You'll be contacted when the merchandise arrives, usually within days. Customer service associates can also contact the Eglin BX for you to see if the merchandise you are wanting is available.

The Tyndall BX shuttle program will save you costly trips to Eglin and provide you with a much broader selection of merchandise.



Every member of Team Tyndall is valuable. Play it safe, don't become a statistic.

Air Armament Summit provides roadmap for future weapon systems

1st Lt. Josie Stewart
Air Armament Center public affairs

SANDESTIN, Fla. (AFPN) — More than 450 officials, including some 80 general officers, from the Department of Defense, industry and academia gathered here with their international counterparts to examine the current state of air armaments as well as to envision and update the 25-year road map for future air armament systems.

The third annual Air Armament Summit, co-sponsored by the Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and the local chapter of the Air Force Association, enabled top experts to gather and examine acquisition strategies, integrated armament planning, science and technology, armament infrastructure and support, and resources through a

series of panels and presentations.

Two key panels this year were the International Panel, whose focus was on leveraging international government and industry resources to lead to optimized combined operations effectiveness, and the Industry Panel, designed to explore new concepts for innovative government and industry partnerships.

General Lester L. Lyles, Air Force Materiel Command commander, and Maj. Gen. Michael C. Kostelnik, Air Armament Center commander, opened the summit.

"We have warfighters, we have planners, we have the Air Force, Army, Navy and the Marine Corps here, and for the first time, this year we have invited our international friends," General Kostelnik said. "Modern warfighting is increasingly done by coalition forces so it is more important than ever for us to have complete weapon systems.

"Emerging armament technologies and new warfighting requirements present us a great opportunity for the air armament community to come together and discuss what its future might be," he said.

"We use this summit process to bring together the leadership on a wide variety of different fronts, including both technologies and warfighters from across the armament community," General Lyles said. "We bring all these people together

to collectively review the status, the vision of where we should be going, the challenges, the issues and the opportunities with all our programs. We want to look at continuous improvement, both in terms of process and the weapon systems we are providing for the warfighter."

Other presenters included Gen. Richard B. Myers, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Gregory S. Martin, United States Air Force in Europe commander, Gen. John P. Jumper, Air Combat Command commander and Willard H. Mitchell, deputy undersecretary of the Air Force for international affairs, who spoke throughout the three-day summit on topics ranging from integrated armament planning and acquisition strategy to science, technology and the global environment, threat and military strategy.

"Overall, the summit was a great success," said Les McFawn, director of the AAC's plans and programs directorate. "Each year, the fidelity of the roadmap gets better and this year we really tied in the science and technology needs and opportunities for the roadmap. We involved industry through industry panels that provided some great insights pertaining to the state of the air armaments from the industry point of view and the need for possibly long-term government and industry operating and partnering models."

Thinking about getting out? Think again!



Get the facts first. Call Chief Master Sgt. Ron Georgia, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance adviser at 283-2222 (283-Career Assistance Advice Anytime).

Your link
to what's going on

Gulf

Guide

in the
Tyndall community

MARCH

SAT31

Astronaut nomination program
The Air Force is accepting applications for highly qualified officers and enlisted members to participate in the AF Astronaut Nomination Program. Members who meet basic eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply. Volunteers may contact their local MPF customer service office for more information. Applications must be postmarked no later than Saturday and forwarded to: HQ, AFPC/DPOT3, 550 C Street, Suite 31, Randolph AFB, Texas, 78150-4733.

APRIL

SUN1

Felix Lake shoppette hours
Effective Sunday, the Felix Lake Shoppette's summer hours will be 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

MON2

'Moms, Pops & Tots'
The parent and child interaction play group, "Moms, Pops & Tots," for parents and their under-age-five children meets 9:30-11 a.m. every Monday at the youth center. For more information, call 286-5812.

FSU employment exposition
Florida State University's Employment Exposition will be 3:30-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday at the FSU Conference Center. Each night of the exposition will highlight specific job markets: Monday- technology; Tuesday-business and communication; Wednesday-health and human services. Businesses interested in reserving a table may access an online order form at: www.fc.fsu.edu or call FSU's career and advising center, 522-2007. The event is open to the community as an opportunity to speak with representatives of companies and agencies about position openings.

Spring break space camp
The Junior Museum of Bay County's Spring Break Space Camp will be 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-April 6 for children in kindergarten through grade five. Activities and lessons involving science and math will be held in conjunction with "2001: A Space Adventure". The cost is \$55 for nonmembers and \$45 for members. For more information, call the junior museum, 769-6129.

TUE3

Coastal navigation class
The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 19 basic coastal navigation course will be 7-9 p.m. Tuesday in Gulf Coast Community College's Student Union East building, Gibson lecture hall, Room 231. The course will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings through April 24. The cost for the course is \$35 for the textbook and materials. For more information, call John Clark, 271-3828 or visit the flotilla web site at: <http://clik.to/USGAUXFlotilla16>

Parenting course
The three-session course for parents of children ages 1 to 4 will continue 3-5 p.m. Tuesday and April 10 in the family advocacy conference room. For more information, call family advocacy, 283-7272.

THU5

Anti-terrorism briefings
Mandatory Air Force Level One anti-terrorism briefings conducted by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations will be 8 a.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in Building 656 next door to the security forces building. The briefings will last approximately 30 minutes and are for Air Force members with permanent change of station or temporary duty assignments to overseas locations. For more information, call AFOSI Detachment 419 Counterintelligence Program Manager, Special Agent Doug Hartwell, 283-3261 or 283-3262.

FRI6

Marriage-relationship conference
A marriage-relationship conference will be April 6-7 at the First United Methodist Church of Panama City. The focus will be on motivating couples to strengthen their marriages for life. For more information, call 763-6537.

Dental assisting program
The 325th Dental Flight is accepting applications for the American Red Cross-sponsored volunteer dental assistant training program. Applications will be available and accepted through April 6 at the dental clinic. Up to five applicants will be chosen for the comprehensive six-month, hands-on training course. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Richard Cotterman, 283-7590.

NOTES

Yard-improvement supplies
Tyndall Family Housing residents can pick up landscaping timbers, mulch and other yard-improvement supplies noon-7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday from the housing-improvement center, Building 3304. Plants can be ordered noon-7 p.m. on Wednesdays and picked up 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays or ordered 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays and picked up noon-7 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information, call Steve Calhoun, 283-4689 or Doug Hall, 283-4648. The plant program will end April 25.

Sewer line repairs
The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will be replacing sewer lines in Wood Manor III and parts of the Wood Manor I and II family housing areas. Due to the necessity to dig in front yards and streets, there will be times when residents will not be allowed to use their water or sewer services. These services include clothes washers, dishwashers, showers, sinks, bathtubs, toilets and garden hoses. In order to reduce the inconvenience caused by this work, residents will be notified in writing prior to the start of any work in yards. For more information, call Huey Moore, 283-4731.

Free child care for newcomers
Free child care is available to spouses wishing to attend the Tyndall Happy Landings newcomers' orientations. The child care is provided at the child development center and is sponsored by the Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club. For more information, call the relocation assistance program office, 283-4204. For child-registration information, call the child development center, 283-4747.

Commissary closure
The commissary will be closed April 15 and 16. It will re-open 9 a.m. April 17.

Voice mail appointments
The 325th Medical Group is now offering patients the option of using voice mail to request a routine or annual family practice appointment or to request an acute appointment from the family practice triage nurse. The voice mail system can be accessed by calling the appointments line, 283-2778, and leaving a message. Staff will call back between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 3 -4 p.m. for appointment scheduling and between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for the triage nurse line.

RETIREE NEWS

Casualty assistance – reporting a retiree death
Surviving Air Force retired or active-duty family members wishing to report a retiree's death should contact Tyndall's Casualty Assistance Representative Mr. Ernie Hooper, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday –Friday. Mr. Hooper can be reached at 283-8392. A voice mail system will activate after three or four unanswered rings and the caller may leave a message. Three additional numbers available in the main customer service office are 283-2276, 283-2242 or 283-2616. The casualty assistance representative also has someone on standby duty after duty hours and on weekends. Family members needing to talk to someone from the casualty assistance office during these times can call the 325th Fighter Wing Operations Center, 283-2155. They will connect the phone call directly to the person on standby either via the home phone or pager.
Surviving Air Force retired or active-duty family members may also call Headquarters, Air Force Personnel Center, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The toll-free number is (800) 558-1404. This office will connect phone calls directly to the casualty assistance representative at Tyndall who will then provide assistance. Voice mail is available after duty hours. Family members leaving a message will be called back the next duty day. Reports may also made directly to the Air Force Casualty Operations Center, (800) 433-0048. This number may be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Anyone making a notification should have the following information available: Retiree's full name, grade and Social Security Number, date and place (city and state) of death, cause of death, and name, relationship, phone number and address of the next-of-kin.

YARD SALES

The following yard sales are scheduled for Saturday: 3533-A Andrews Loop and 3181-A Voodoo Drive. All yard sales are held between 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

BASE THEATER

Today: "Saving Silverman" (PG-13, crude and sexual humor, language, thematic material, 92 min.)
Saturday: "Sweet November" (PG-13, sexual content and language, 114 min.)
Sunday: "Sweet November"
Thursday: "Monkeybone" (PG-13, crude humor, some nudity, 93 min.)
●All movies start at 7 p.m. except Sunday, which is 6 p.m.

Need some money-saving tips?

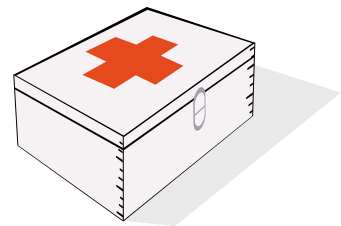
The family support center has just what you're looking for. A self-paced, interactive personal finance program on compact disc is available at the FSC computer resource center. Topics on the disc include budgeting, credit management, insurance, savings, investing, relocation and more! For more information, call the family support center, 283-4204.



Be wise; use proper money management

Dental Assisting Program

The 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron is accepting applications for the American Red Cross sponsored volunteer dental assistant training program. Applications will be available and accepted through April 9 at the dental clinic. Up to five applicants will be chosen for the comprehensive six-month, hands-on training course. For more information on the program, call Tech. Sgt. Richard Cotterman at 283-7590.



Free IRS filing – Thanks to Tyndall's Volunteer Income Tax Adviser reps

Courtesy of the 325th Fighter Wing staff judge advocate office

Through the hard work of Tyndall's motivated Volunteer Income Tax Advisers, Team Tyndall has saved its members over \$45,000 in potential filing-preparation fees and \$1.2 million in total federal income tax refunds. Since the Tyndall Tax Center opened in February, our unit tax volunteers have processed 1,094 returns. These people are working hard for Team Tyndall. For example, Master Sgt. Brenda Soel and Tech. Sgt. Patrick Conlin from the 325th Maintenance Squadron have helped prepare and file personal income tax returns for over 45 percent of their squadron's members.

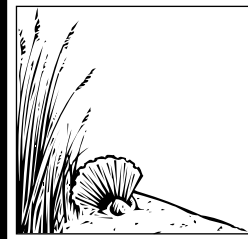
Thanks to Tyndall's 38 unit tax volunteers, almost every squadron has a VITA representative. They all have been trained through an IRS-sponsored course and can answer specific tax questions, offer general tax advice, help prepare income tax returns and file the returns electronically.

We are proud to offer our military community the invaluable services of free tax advice and electronic tax filing. Electronic filing is one of the quickest ways to get your income

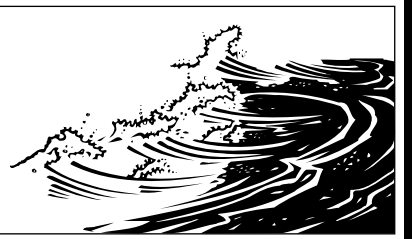
tax refund. Our Tyndall tax center, as well as your unit VITA representatives can help you get a refund in as little as two weeks!

All VITA reps are still available to assist you with your 2000 tax returns. Also, the base legal office (Building 662, Suite 110), which serves as the Tyndall Tax Center headquarters, will continue to provide free electronic filing, a drop off "Tax Box" (for 1040A and 1040E filers only), IRS forms and publications, general tax advice and of course, one-on-one tax assistance by appointment. If you need an appointment, call the Tyndall Tax Center at 283-4681. These services are available to all active-duty members, retirees, reservists on active duty and military dependents with military IDs.

Our services will be available Monday through Friday until April 13. However, with tax season nearing its end, the Tyndall Tax Center will be holding walk-in tax clinics. The tax clinics will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 31 and April 7. No appointment is required. This will be your last opportunity to have your returns electronically filed for you. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this free service.



Funshine NEWS



March 30, 2001

This page is produced by the 325th Services Marketing office, 283-4565.

Officers' Club

☎ 283-4357

Membership Meeting

at the Officers' Club, April 12 at 4:30 p.m. Attend this meeting to hear about future plans!

Designated Driver Program

Ask the staff about our designated driver program.

\$300 Club Card Drawing

Every Thursday at the club at 6 p.m.

Don't Forget! "Your Cash is Trash"

Every Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Enlisted Club

☎ 283-4146

Membership Meeting

at the Enlisted Club, April 10 at 4:30 p.m. Attend this meeting to hear about future plans!

Happy Birthday

Members, stop by the business office and pick up your birthday month coupon.

Skills Development Ctr.

☎ 283-4511

Beginner Crocheting Class

The three sessions of this class will be held on Apr. 5, 12, and 19 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$18 plus supplies. There must be a minimum of 4 participants for the class.

Marina Club

☎ 283-3059

Seafood Buffet

Every Friday, All-You-Can-Eat seafood for \$6.25 (includes drink).

Learn to Scuba Dive

All levels of scuba dive training are available, taught by a PADI certified instructor. Call for prices.

Spanish Mackerel Tournament

March 31. Open to all members and their guests. Cash prizes.

Pelican Pt. Golf Course

☎ 286-2565

Ladies Golf Clinics

Every Wednesday 8 a.m., \$5 per session. Call for more information.

Community Activities Ctr.

☎ 283-2495

Belly Dance Classes

Start April 5: Beginners class 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$30 per person for 4 weeks. Advanced class 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$30 per person for 4 weeks

Modern Jazz Classes

Start 14 Apr: Youth 6-12 year old. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20 per person for 4 weeks. Adults Class 12-1 p.m. \$20 per person for 4 weeks

Aero Club

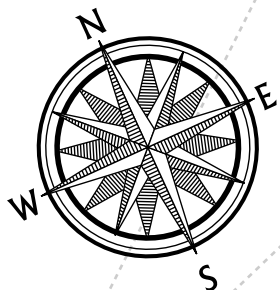
Private Pilot Ground School

April 9

Commercial Instrument

April 10

Call 283-4404 for more info.



Travel Expedition 2001

Tyndall AFB, Florida

Information, Tickets, and Tours will be presenting various vendors of vacation opportunities:

April 27, 2001 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

At the Community Activities Center

Amusement Parks • Motels • Dinner Theaters
and more will be represented at this show.

For more information call ITT at 283-2495

Easter Sunday "Champagne" Brunch All Ranks at the Officers' Club

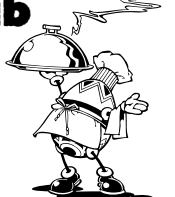


"Special appearance by the Easter Bunny!"
Parents, don't forget your cameras!

April 15 • Seatings at 11 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

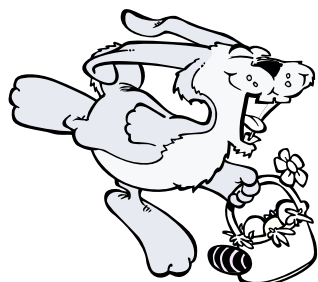
Featuring: Steamship Round, Baked Virginia

"Reservations Required" Ham, Tom Turkey, Assorted Vegetables, Omelet
O-Club - 283-4357 Station, Fruit, Juices and Holiday Desserts.



Special!
Easter Egg Hunt
at your table!

* Adults \$10.95, Children 5-12 75¢ per year, Children under 5 Free *



Tyndall Youth Programs Big Bunny Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 14

at the Youth Center,
Bldg. 3223 on Sabre Drive.
BYOB (bring your own basket)

11 a.m. age categories 1-2, 3-4

1 p.m. age categories: 5-6, & 7-8

3 p.m. age categories: 9-10 & 11-12

Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt (For Teens only)

Saturday, April 14

The Annual hunt begins at 8 p.m. at the center, Bldg. 3223 on Sabre Drive.
BYOFL (bring your own flash light) • BYOB (bring your own basket)

Age categories: 13-18

Prize filled eggs will contain candy, toys, or coupons for a variety of prizes.

Volunteers are needed to assist in preparing for this major base wide event for the youth of Tyndall. Volunteer meetings Tuesday April 10 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday April 11 at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center

Sponsored in part by: Tyndall Federal Credit Union. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

For more information call 283-4366

Pelican Point Golf Course

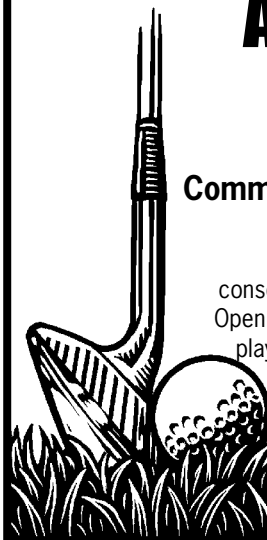
AETC Golf Championship Base Level Competition

April 21, 22, 28, 29 • 8 a.m.

Command level tournament to be held at Randolph AFB
1st weekend in June.

This tournament consists of 4 rounds of golf to be played over two consecutive weekends. There will be a Men's Open, Senior Men's, Women's Open and Senior Women's categories. The golfers in this tournament will be playing for the opportunity to represent Tyndall AFB at the command level tournament.

For more information call: 286-2565



AF Club Catering

Whether it's a private or official function, the Enlisted and Officers' Clubs can exceed your catering expectations.

Enlisted Club:
Sandy 283-4146

Officers' Club:
Char 283-4357

Air Force honors Navajo Code Talkers

Master Sgt. Austin Carter
Air Force Space Command public affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFPN)—In 1942, Navajos in the American Southwest heard the military’s bugle call for volunteers after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They rushed to sign up for the fighting.

Sixty years later, the Navajos heard that bugle once more. This time the music was not a call to war, but a homage to their war efforts.

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Rockies gave a performance to the Navajo Nation at Window Rock, Ariz., during their “Songs of Democracy” tour of the Southwest in early March. It was a special concert with newly composed music to honor the fabled Navajo Code Talkers.

The Code Talkers were Navajo men recruited by the Marines as radio operators during World War II. Because of the Japanese success in breaking the U.S. radio codes at the start of the war, early operations in the Pacific were being compromised.

The Navajo people’s language was complex, not recorded in books and unknown outside of the reservation. With a few adjustments to encompass military jargon, the language was perfect for transmitting secret and sensitive information. Navajo radiomen served throughout the Pacific theater from 1942 to 1945.

As Marines, they were always at the forefront of the bloody island-hopping battles of the Pacific and saved thousands of lives with their secure communication.

Their code was never broken, but the project remained classified until the 1960s.

The Navajos of the Southwest have always known of the bravery of these men. Now the United States is acknowledging it as well by giving Congressional Gold and Silver Medals to the members of this elite communications corps.

Gold medals will go to the original 29 Navajos who first volunteered and silver medals will go to those who followed. Those medals are expected to be given in Washington in July.

Congress gives the medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for achievements and contributions. Navajo Code Talkers will be in the company of previous recipients such as George Washington, John Paul Jones, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindbergh, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, Jesse Owens and Mother Teresa.

“Awarding these medals will give our nation a chance to bestow an honor that is long overdue and to formally thank these brave men for their contributions,” said Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-New Mexico), the sponsor of the bill.

“They’re very patriotic and very much a Marine community,” said band

member Master Sgt. Mark Israel. “If you go by the cemetery, you see all the American flags flying by the headstones. This is a community that takes patriotism seriously.”

Sergeant Israel suggested the idea of holding a special concert for the community and its famous members during the band’s tour, and convinced the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President to sponsor the event. Other community sponsors — The Navajo Times, the Navajo-Hopi Observer, KTNN Radio and Channel 5 TV — quickly joined in. “We didn’t hesitate when the band proposed it; we wanted it to happen,” said Merle Pete of the Navajo Nation’s Office of the President and Vice President.

Simply playing for the Navajo and the Code Talkers veterans was not enough.

The band decided to play an original musical piece composed just for the occasion. The radio sponsor, KTNN, would broadcast it live from Mexico to Washington State.

“It’s not every day you can honor Congressional Gold Medal recipients in their own hometown,” Sergeant Israel said.

The task of composing the music fell to Tech. Sgt. Joseph Spaniola, the staff composer/arranger. Master Sgt. John Bailey, the band’s noncommissioned officer in charge of auditions and narration, struggled to find just the right words for the accompanying narration.

“From the beginning, it was a matter of cultural differences,” Sergeant Spaniola said. “They sent me a CD of traditional Navajo music. I wanted to get it right and incorporate some of their folk songs into the music. I discovered they were sensitive about how and when their music was played. Even about what season of the year it could be played. I tried to incorporate their musical expression with their traditional pattern scale into the piece.”



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Capt. Henry Bake Jr. , left and Private 1st Class George Kirk, were two Navajo Indians serving with a Marine signal unit. They were operating a portable radio set in a clearing in the dense jungle of Bougainville in December 1943.

With just a week to compose the music, Sergeant Spaniola delivered a composition that starts simply with spare notes on a flute and percussion to denote the Navajo life and rises in tempo at the end to echo the Marine Corps hymn. Code Talkers throughout the audience emotionally leapt to their feet when they heard the familiar strains of the hymn.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in the house,” Sergeant Israel said. “After all, they were some of the best Marines.”

“They were touched that we took the time to pay tribute to them and their culture,” Sergeant Spaniola said.

Samuel Billison, the president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, said the music brought back a flood of memories for the aging members of his organization.

“We had a double feeling when we heard it,” he said. “We thought the music was great, but on the other hand we felt sorry that some of us who didn’t make it back couldn’t be there to hear it. It was an emotional

time for us. It brought tears to our eyes.”

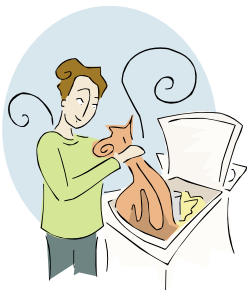
The response from the Navajo audience of more than 300 people in attendance was so positive about the experience that they hope to repeat it, Mr. Pete said.

“Our veterans were visibly moved,” he said. “We wouldn’t hesitate to have (the band) back. We hope they will come back on a yearly basis.”

Second Lt. Lawrence Yazzie, a Navajo who graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in May, went with the band as a liaison with the community.

“A lot of people go away from home into the real world with heroes like Michael Jordan or Babe Ruth,” he said. “My grandparents, my ancestors and the Code Talkers are the heroes of my cultural heritage. At the academy I was up studying late at night or doing hundreds of push-ups and thought that I had it hard, but it’s nothing to what my ancestors and the Code Talkers went through.”

Team Tyndall Pride



Take pride in Team Tyndall and its beauty. Pick up trash if you see it or do a self-help project — we all reap the benefits of a clean environment.



2nd Lt. James Danik

Pilot for the day gives thumbs up

Cameron Cohee, 7, gives two thumbs-up after being fitted in a parachute harness. Earlier, Cameron was assigned the call-sign “Burner” when he was fitted for his flight suit. Cameron, along with Tabitha Bodder, 14, and Randy Veasey, 8, were selected by the Shriners Club in Panama City to participate in the pilot-for-a-day program, organized by Tech. Sgt. Ben Rausa, 325th Operations Group quality assurance evaluator. The kids were treated to lunch at the officer’s club and a ride in a limousine that took them to the Panama City airport where a waiting Leer jet took them to the skies above. After flying back to Tyndall AFB, a show by the Army Golden Knight parachuting team capped off the day and the kids were presented with a baton that had been used as part of the show.

Sports & Fitness

Volleyball standings		
Large squadron		
	W	L
CES	1	0
COMM 1	1	0
MDG	1	0
MSS	1	0
SEADS 1	1	0
1FS	0	0
COMM 2	0	0
OSS 1	0	0
OSS 2	0	0
CONR 1	0	0
TRS 1	0	0
2FS	0	1
SEADS 2	0	1
95 FS	0	1
CONR 2	0	1
TRS 2	0	1
Small squadron		
81 TSS	1	0
AFCESA	1	0
NCOA	1	0
TEST	1	0
372 TRS	0	0
83 FWS	0	1
RHS	0	1
SVS	0	1
MXS	0	1

2001 Intramural golf standings		
Large squadron		
	Total points	Makeup Games
MSS 1	11	
COMM	10.5	
CONR 1	8.5	
OSS	7	
2FS	6	
TRS	5	
MDG	4	
95FS	3.5	
CONR 2	3	
SEADS	1	
CONR 3	.5	1
CES	0	2
MSS2	0	1
Small squadron		
LSS	12	
MXS	8.5	
362TRS	8	
83FWS	6	
SVS	4	
AFCESA	3.5	
85TS	3	
372TRS	0	